

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6, amended claims 1 and 7-14, and new claim 15 are in this application. Claim 2 is canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Ino et al. (5,506,581) in view of Szczutkowski et al. (4,817,146).

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites in part as follows:

“...and wherein said minimum run is repeated no more than six times.”

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Ino and Szczutkowski does not appear to teach the above recited feature of amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino and Szczutkowski.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 7, 9, and 10 are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino and Szczutkowski.

Claims 3, 4, and 6 depend from claim 1, and due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino and Szczutkowski for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ino in view of Szczutkowski and further in view of Kojima et al. (EP 0 779 623 A2).

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 8 and 11 are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of

Ino and Szczutkowski. The Examiner does not appear to have relied upon Kojima to overcome the above-described deficiencies of the Ino and Szczutkowski combination. Accordingly, independent claims 8 and 11 are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino, Szczutkowski, and Kojima.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Ino in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 12 and 13 are believed to be distinguishable over Ino as applied by the Examiner. The Examiner does not appear to have relied upon AAPA to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Ino. Accordingly, independent claims 12 and 13 are believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino and AAPA.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ino in view of AAPA and in further view of Kojima.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claim 14 is believed to be distinguishable over Ino as applied by the Examiner. The Examiner does not appear to have relied upon AAPA or Kojima to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Ino. Accordingly, independent claim 14 is believed to be distinguishable over the applied combination of Ino, AAPA, and Kojima.

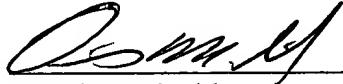
For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, new claim 15 is believed to be distinguishable over the applied references.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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